



81 Days of Progress

INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA

City of San Diego

WEEKLY UPDATE: OCTOBER 10, 2013

Convention Center: As most of you know, today's a big day for the Convention Center project. In a couple hours, we'll be making our case to the California Coastal Commission about the Convention Center expansion. We're cautiously optimistic about our chances. It is one of the final hurdles. We'll have a broad coalition of supporters at the hearing – labor groups, hoteliers, Downtown residents, you name it. Everyone recognizes that this expansion will provide an enormous economic boost to the entire region, creating 7,000 permanent jobs and having an estimated economic impact of \$700 million a year. It will help us retain Comic-Con. It will help us capture the year's worth of business that we currently lose every year because the Convention Center doesn't have enough space. We'll make our case to the Coastal Commission as thoroughly and vigorously as we can. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Federal Shutdown: Along with everyone else, I remain very concerned about the impacts of the federal shutdown in San Diego, both short-term and long-term. And a federal debt-default could be catastrophic. I'm hoping common sense prevails in our nation's capital so that San Diegans – and, for that matter, Americans – can stop worrying about how all of this might impact their lives. Some people's lives are already being impacted, of course.

New Public Utilities Director: Last Friday I announced we have hired a new director for our Public Utilities Department. It's a big, important job and we're lucky to have found an outstanding person to fill it – Halla Razak. She comes to us from the San Diego County Water Authority, where she was director of the Colorado River Program. Before that she worked for the City of San Diego for 18 years, most recently as chief deputy director of Engineering and Capital Projects. She starts on November 12.

Management Restructuring – As I've said before, we're performing a top-down review of the city's management structure and have some ideas that we're hoping to get to the Council by the end of the month. We want a structure that is more efficient and transparent. This is a way to prevent everything from being funneled directly through one person as it was during the previous administration. I've been working closely with Walt Ekard and Scott Chadwick.

Boards and Commissions – We're doing our best to help fill the scores of vacancies that we inherited from the previous administration. We have a situation where there are certain boards that literally can't conduct business because they don't have enough members for a quorum. Every week I've been sending out a memo to the Council requesting nominations for vacancies on up to four different boards.

Tourism Marketing District – We're taking steps to make sure that our tourism industry is able to do what it does best – lure visitors to San Diego. As you probably know, the issue of the Tourism Marketing District is tied up in litigation right now. We're hoping to get something to Council by early November that would loosen some of the TMD restrictions put in place by the previous administration and make it easier for the tourism industry to spend money on advertising and other marketing efforts. We're also hoping we will prevail on these issues in court, which would be a huge win for everyone who understands the importance of tourism to our local economy.

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